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Second phase of 4th NID today

The second phase of the fourth National Immunisation Day will be held across the country today to give two drops of polio vaccine to the children under five, reports UNB.

About two crore children will be given Oral Polio Vaccine and a high Vitamin-A capsule through 1,20,000 vaccination centres throughout the country. Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf formally inaugurated the second round of fourth NID at EPI bhaban in the city yesterday.

Addressing on the occasion, the minister called upon the people to bring their children under five years of age to the vaccination centres for administering OPV.

Police beat up passengers at Sylhet Airport

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 17: Police arrested three persons from Sylhet M A G Osmani Airport Lounge tonight on charge of ransacking and causing damage to Biman's property.

At least 10 people were injured as the police went into action on the agitating passengers who were protesting the cancellation of a scheduled Biman flight.

The district manager of Biman said, the Dhaka-bound flight BG 606 was scheduled to take off from Sylhet at 5.15 pm today. It was rescheduled thrice till 7.45 pm when the authorities had to cancel the flight due to the inclement weather and dense fog.

However, the 60 passengers and one Biman staff who were to fly on the flight were taken inside the lounge after check-in before 5 pm.

After cancellation of the flight, the passengers, of whom 58 were London-bound and two bound for Dubai, became extremely agitated.

At one stage, some of them ransacked the Biman counter and some furniture. On getting information, a police team came and beat up some of the agitated passengers and their relatives.

A number of passengers alleged that the Biman authorities misbehaved with the passengers who asked about the repeated change in the schedule of the flight.

Sharif

From page 1

In Dhaka, a delegation of a faction of Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee called on Finance Minister of Pakistan Shariat Aziz today, according to UNB.

The 10-member delegation was led by the faction leader Ejaz Ahmed Siddiqui.

During the meeting, the Pakistan minister said his government has appealed to all the countries of the world to provide funds for repatriation of its stranded nationals from Bangladesh as early as possible.

The delegation demanded subsistence allowances from Pakistan government for the stranded people now living in various camps till their repatriation.

They said the camp dwellers should be provided with Pakistani passport without any delay.

They also demanded financial support from Pakistan for the reconstruction of camps and repair of the educational institutions.

Nawaz Sharif cut short his visit and left Dhaka today for home by a special flight.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina saw him off at the Zia International Airport. Cabinet members, diplomats and high civil and military officials were present.

Nawaz Sharif was scheduled to go on a boat trip to the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, yesterday morning and fly to Pakistan in the afternoon.

An official source said "dense fog in the morning" forced the Pakistan premier to abandon his visit to the Sundarbans.

Wasim Akram

From page 1

to a source close to the Pakistan team.

It was also learnt that Akram and star batsman Salim Malik, who are disputing following allegations of match-fixing, may be heading for a premature end to their illustrious cricketing career unless they can come clean.

The source however confirmed that paceman Waqar Younis and wicketkeeper Moin Khan, who were also left out of the Independence Cup squad due to poor form, were almost certain to return to the 16-man South Africa bound team which will be led by present captain Rashid Latif. Besides, Mohammad Wasim, Shoaib Akhtar and Shahid Nazir are likely to earn a recall.

Players from the 14-man team now playing in Dhaka who are likely to miss the South Africa tour are Manzoor Akhtar, Aaqib Javed and Shahid Afridi, confided the source.



Giovanni Khanal, a 14-year-old boy from India, chanting slogan with children marchers from different countries yesterday in suburban Quezon City to kick off the Global March Against Child Labour. —AP/UNB photo

Experts point out 3 main causes 35 pc city dwellers face water crisis

Water experts have observed that unplanned expansion of the capital city, increasing population and construction of high-rise buildings were the main causes of short supply of water to the city dwellers, reports UNB.

About 35 per cent city population is being deprived of water, either fully or partially, due to increasing shortage that has accumulated over the years, they told a workshop here yesterday.

Dhaka WASA organised the workshop on 'problems and prospects of water supply in Dhaka city' at the WASA Bhaban auditorium. LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman opened the workshop as chief guest.

WASA chairman Dr A T M Zahurul Haq chaired the opening session. Some 70 local and foreign experts attended the workshop.

The experts said excessive lifting of underground water was causing gradual recession of the underground water-level, raising the water-lifting cost and deteriorating the quality of water.

In his inaugural speech, LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman expressed concern over the wastage of water, its pillage and underhand dealings with water bills. He sought cooperation from all to stop such undesirable practices.

He said some dishonest people are depriving the government of its revenue earnings by taking illegal water-line connections and tampering with the bills.

Zillur called for taking steps to prevent water pollution and

to control the quality of both underground and surface water. He said owners of different industries in the city and the government authorities should be more responsible and cautious to preserve environment and prevent pollution of underground and river waters.

The government will take steps to implement new projects with the assistance of donor countries and aid organisations to purify and supply of surface water by reducing pressure on the underground water, the LGRD minister told the workshop.

He said the government has taken up three big projects for water treatment. These included the Sayedabad water treatment project with a production capacity of 90 crore litres per day. It is now under implementation.

Other projects are: Postagala Water Treatment Project (daily capacity 22 crore litres) and Singair Water Treatment Project near Savar (daily capacity 45 crore litres).

Zillur said the Chandighat water treatment plant in old Dhaka has already gone into operation with a production capacity of 4 crore litres per day.

With the implementation of the short, intermediate and long-term development projects undertaken by the Dhaka WASA, he said there will be no crisis, nor deficit of water in the city.

At present, the minister said, Dhaka WASA is capable of producing 85 crore litres of water per day as against the demand of 130 crore litres.

Clinton, Jones face-to-face

WASHINGTON, Jan 17: Bill Clinton and his sex-harassment accuser Paula Jones met face-to-face today as the President arrived at his lawyer's office to make a sworn deposition in the case, reports AFP.

Clinton arrived in his motorcade and entered the building through the parking entrance making no comment to reporters, moments after Jones walked through the front entrance.

The deposition is believed to be the first time a sitting president has been called to testify in a civil court proceeding.

In the deposition expected to last several hours, Clinton was expected to be asked about Jones' charges that he propositioned her at an Arkansas hotel in 1991, while he was governor of the state and she was a state employee.

Paula Jones feels great, she is not nervous, she slept well last night, her adviser Susan Carpenter McMillan said. She said Jones would say a few words after the proceedings.

A trial date has been set for May 26 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Jones is claiming two million dollars in damages for sexual harassment suit and violation of her civil rights.

Freak

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 17: A baby girl with four hands, four legs and four ears was born at a clinic in Sonargaon thana of the district today.

The baby died immediately after birth, clinic sources said. The mother, Nasima Khatun, 24, wife of one Gasud Ahmed of the locality was reported to be well.

Overriding of jurisdiction

From page 1

sury and the Opposition benches. The National Committee included names of two MPs of the BNP. But while constituting the body, the ruling party did neither consult the Opposition Chief Whip, nor it took consent of the BNP legislators concerned.

The second such incident came a few months later. In the face of BNP's reluctance to accept any proposition except the proportionate membership on the parliamentary standing bodies, the Treasury bench unilaterally announced some committees that included names of BNP legislators.

The BNP sharply reacted to the move, arguing that the ruling party had clearly intervened in the Opposition jurisdiction. The party said that it was the sole authority of the BNP to decide which member of the party would be on which committee. Quoting a certain provision of the JS Rules of Procedure, the BNP also argued that the Treasury bench had no scope to include an MP in any parliamentary body without taking his/her prior consent.

Following the BNP reaction,

the ruling party did not include any BNP legislator while announcing 14 standing committees on ministries in November last year. The ruling party rather kept some positions vacant in all the 14 committees, clearly hinting that the vacancies are to be filled up by the Opposition MPs.

This time, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah sought the 'desire' or 'consent' of the BNP MPs, while ignored the convention of sorting out the issue with his counterpart, the Opposition Chief Whip. The Treasury

Sonia

From page 1

She said in her speech that upcoming elections would witness "a clash of fundamental values, ideas and ideals."

"The choice is between harmony and progress and the exploitation of our differences for the sake of power at any cost," she said.

"Can we negate our values and heritage by converting religion into an instrument to divide?" she asked.

IFAD to support small NGOs

From page 1

the government cannot reach, the NGOs try to reach out through their poverty alleviation schemes.

He further added, "In the beginning, we supported the Grameen Bank, BRAC and Proshika, but now we are moving towards the smaller NGOs. We support the nursery of smaller NGOs rather than the large NGOs who have already proved their capacity. We are now assisting the local grassroots level NGOs to grow up."

He said the smaller NGOs could seek IFAD's involvement if they could demonstrate that they have the capacity to implement projects.

Asked if IFAD was doing enough in Bangladesh in the agricultural sector, Fawzi Hamad replied, "Our target is the people, not agriculture. Our

loans go through government and institutions. They have to implement the programmes. We are also now emphasising on non-land based activities."

Fawzi Hamad said the programmes supported by IFAD are community intensive in nature. Several countries and organisations receiving the assistance of IFAD also get the co-participation or involvement of other UN partners like FAO and WFP. Besides, many projects are also assisted by financial agencies like the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank.

The IFAD president lauded the role of Bangladesh, particularly the NGOs, in implementing micro-credit schemes.

Bangladesh has become a leader in the field of implementing micro-credit schemes, in several places and around

the globe micro-credit models of Bangladesh are being replicated."

Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan said that the efforts being put by IFAD in the area of poverty alleviation is greater than any other international organisation.

The IFAD chief observed that poverty alleviation is still the greatest challenge facing the world.

"The number of absolute poor has not gone down. Eight hundred million people, nearly close to a billion people are going hungry. However, the efforts put in by different governments and the NGOs and efforts of the IFAD are leading to improvements in health, schooling, disease prevention and population control," he said. "The social indicators are improving but much more needs to be done."

Shantibahini drops hit list

KHAGRACHHARI, Jan 17: The Shantibahini, armed wing of the PCJSS, has decided to drop its hit list under which they have killed more tribal and non-tribal people in last 24 years in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

The move came at the heel of the January 15 decision of the PCJSS on surrendering arms from February 9, sources close to the tribal insurgents told journalists who visited the frontier village of Dudukchhari on Friday.

The decision to cancel the hit list was taken at a meeting held recently to mark the 26th founding anniversary of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity.

The hit list was prepared by Intelligence Branch of the Shantibahini at the instruction from its high command to kill the people who acted against their movement in the CHT.

Meanwhile, PCJSS chairman Jotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma returned to his camp in Dudukchhari today. Other members of the PCJSS will return to the camp tomorrow.

House of newly elected UP chairman set ablaze

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 17: The house of a newly-elected Union Parishad Chairman was set ablaze early hours today at village Mohammadnagar of Barlekha thana.

About two hundred people attacked the house of Abdul Jabbar, the newly-elected chairman of the Dakshin Shahajpur union at about 5:30 am today. They threw petrol on the three tin-shed structures and set them on fire.

None of the male members of the family was in the house during the incident.

Cash worth taka one lakh, one international passport, some other valuable documents, 50 tolas of gold ornaments, clothes and other valuables were burnt to ashes, family sources claimed.

Local people brought the fire under control after more than two hours.

However, no casualty was reported. A case has been lodged with the Barlekha thana.

Launch dacoity in Padma

RAJBARI, Jan 17: Armed pirates looted goods and valuables worth about Tk one lakh from the passengers of a launch on its way to Daulatdia ghat from Aricha on Friday evening, reports UNB.

Witnesses said about 12 pirates, in guise of passengers, took control of the launch. Mostafa-1 at gun point at 7:30 pm while the water vessel was crossing the river Padma with passengers of Saudia Paribahan coach.

They looted gold ornaments, cash and other valuables of the passengers and forced the Sareng to stop the vessel at char Daulatdia where they decamped with the booties.

The passengers lodged complaints with Goalando Ghat police.

One killed, 5 hurt in gas cylinder explosion

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 17: One person was killed and four others were injured when a gas cylinder exploded at a welding shop in Nabiganj of Bandar thana this afternoon.

The dead was identified as Minto, 30, while two of the seriously injured — Harun and Dulal — were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Two other wounded workers were given first aid at the local health complex.

The shop was closed after the accident.

Bandar police registered a case of unnatural death.

BNP

From page 1

ers in increased number are speaking out for their return to the House.

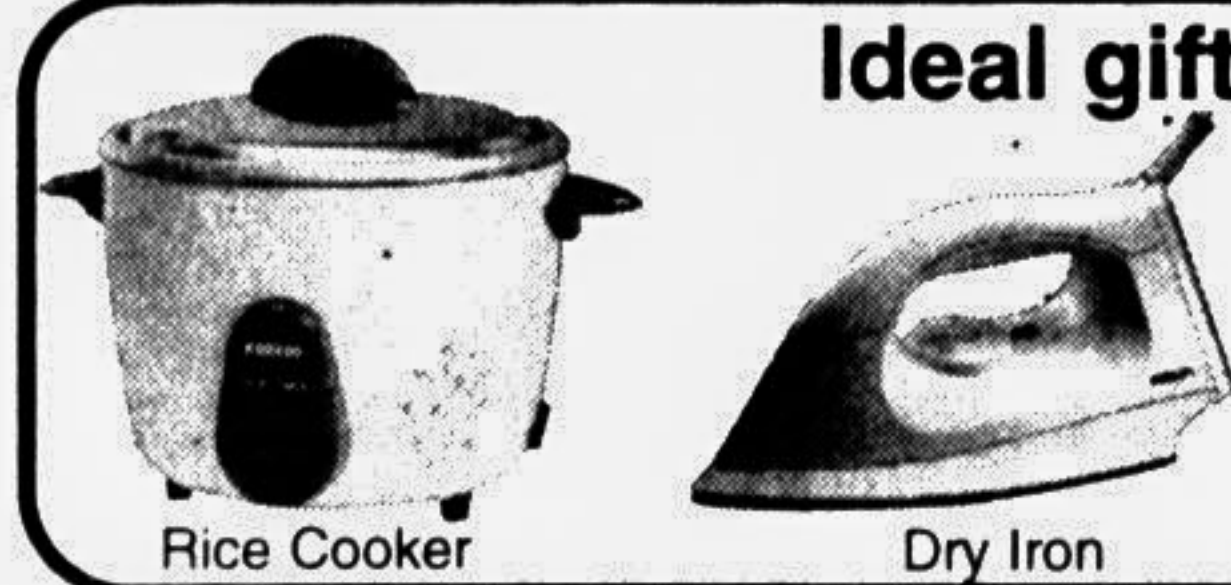
BNP's indefinite boycott is to press a 14-point charter of demand including more seats in the JS standing committees and more time to speak in the House.

Coming out of yesterday's meeting, Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain told the waiting newsmen that their discussions would continue.

Meanwhile, the national executive committee (NEC) of BNP meets at the 29 Minto Road official residence of Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia at 10 this morning.

According to party sources, the party's indefinite boycott of parliament and its anti-government agitation would dominate the discussion at the meeting, being held after long one year.

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PHILIPS

Salman Shah's death Prosecution report against Neela Chy, 6 others to be filed with CMM's court

CID police sought permission from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court to file a non-FIR prosecution report against seven people on charge of falsification of filmstar Salman Shah's death, a police source said yesterday.

The seven people are: Neela Chowdhury (Salman Shah's mother), Kamaruddin Ahmed Chowdhury (father) and Shahreaz Chowdhury Biltu (younger brother), former OC Shahabuddin of Cantonment thana, sub-inspectors Badrul Alam and Si Kayum.

IGP Mohammad Hossain already gave his consent to file non-FIR prosecution report in this regard against them. Last Wednesday, investigation officer of CID police sought permission from the CMM court.

After getting permission, police will file the non-FIR prosecution report with the court on charge of making attempt to turn Salman's death into a murder case.

Illegal arms factory found in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 17: Police today unearthed a clandestine arms manufacturing factory at Sonadanga residential area.

Police arrested a young man named Afzal alias Khokon, 24, while he was making a revolver. Police also recovered from there a revolver loaded with a bullet and some materials required for making firearms.

Police, quoting confidential statement of the Afzal, said that there were other men in the factory who manage to escape before the raid.

The accused said that fire arms made in the factory are generally sold to terrorists in and outside the city at different prices.

Final battle

From Page 1

"Our batsmen, bowlers performed superbly in the second final and we are determined to make it again," said Latif, who replaced Moin Khan as wicket keeper.

Beating India is always special. So the match would be very crucial," he said.

Regaining the captaincy, Azhar, who displayed an outstanding performance scoring the highest 280 in four matches with 84, 100, 30 not out and 66, said, "contribution of Sachin Tendulkar is always important, but it is stupid to expect Sachin to score every time."

He said, "I hope he gets a big score tomorrow, but India will have to learn to win even if he fails."

Pakistan have a solid lineup with Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Aamir Sohail, Ejaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq.

Private banks

From page 1

tionalised few years back, also made profit of Tk 31.8 crore and Tk 69.12 crore respectively.

Arab Bangladesh Bank made a profit of Tk 45 crore and had a deposit of Tk 1030 crore. Eastern Bank — profit Tk 36 crore, deposit Tk 950 crore; United Commercial Bank — profit Tk 33 crore, deposit Tk 950 crore; City Bank — profit Tk 20 crore, deposit Tk 900 crore and Bank of Small Industries and Cottage (BASIC) — profit Tk 19.79 crore. Financial statements of the rest three banks were not available.

Ctg: 38 killed

From page 1

Deterioration of law and order here has prompted the city dwellers, mainly businessmen, to prepare for self-defence.

Police sources said additional forces were deployed around city markets and other important places to nab terrorists, muggers and toll collectors in this month of Ramadan. There are 400 listed terrorists, toll collectors and other criminals in the city.

"But it is difficult to arrest most of them as they either belong to political parties or they are sheltered by political godfathers," said Atiqur Rahman, assistant commissioner of detective branch of CMP.

"If police arrest these terrorists, the parties concerned and their leaders stage agitation and protests," Rahman said.

An official of police intelligence, requesting not to be named, said, "Police officials have to face pressure and threats from political leaders in case of arresting these terrorists. Political violence had surfaced here either due to internal conflicts of the parties or rivalry among leaders and activists of the parties."

Police sources said that terrorists, tailing political parties including Awami League, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami here are maintaining a high profile, possessing mobile phones, latest model cars and sophisticated arms like AK-47.

BNP programmes to observe Zia's birth anniversary

The opposition BNP has drawn up elaborate programmes to observe the 62nd anniversary of birth of its founder and former President Ziaur Rahman tomorrow, reports UNB.

The programmes include hoisting of party flag at BNP central office, placing of wreaths and offering of special *munajat* at the mazar of the late leader at 10 am, said a press release.

A discussion will be held at 29, Minto Road at 3 pm. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has requested the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations to observe the day with due respect.

Police foil Zia Parishad demonstration

Police foiled a planned demonstration of Zia Parishad near the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman demanding re-installation of the Bailey bridge over the Crescent Lake, reports UNB.

A press release of the Parishad said police obstructed its leaders and workers from entering the mazar premises to stage a sit-in demonstration in the morning.

DSE index

From page 1

shares in the last three and a half months which pushed the already-weak index further down.

Imtiyaz Husain, the former DSE chairman who was removed last May, traded shares worth about Tk 21 crore since October last, of which shares valuing Tk 18 crore were sold.

Husain is now facing a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) deadline, January 20, to come up with a statement of his transactions.

Husain could not be reached for his comment.

The DSE debacle comes in the wake of frantic moves by its new Councilors to secure market salvation funds.

Market watchers gave other reasons behind the market hitting a new low.

Last week, panic created by Peregrine collapse in Hong Kong propelled the downward slide, taking the DSE index from 739 to 707 on Thursday.

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